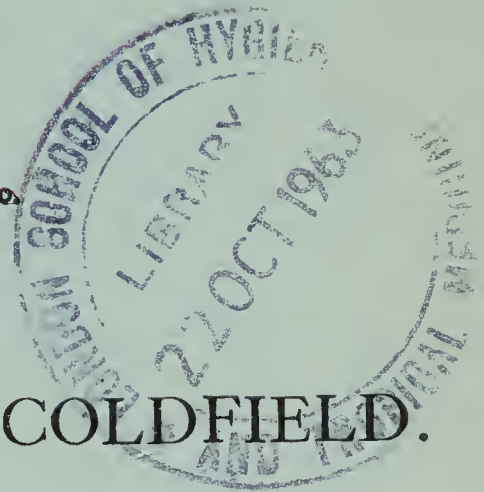


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THE  
NATIONAL  
INSTITUTE  
FOR  
RESEARCH  
IN  
DAIRYING



THE ROYAL TOWN OF SUTTON COLDFIELD



BOROUGH OF SUTTON COLDFIELD.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1936.

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SUTTON COLDFIELD :

W. F. WOODCOCK & SONS LTD., 98, PARADE.

671



To the Chairman and Members of the  
HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

and

To the Chairman and Members of the  
MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1936. The population of the Borough continues to increase, and it will be noted that the local estimate is considerably higher than that of the Registrar-General, which in my opinion is an understatement of the present population.

Those statistics which are an index of the health of the Borough are satisfactory. The mortality rates with few exceptions, were below the corresponding rates for the country as a whole, the rate of infant mortality being particularly noteworthy in this respect. Maternal mortality on the other hand was relatively high.

The incidence of and mortality from the notifiable diseases, with the exception of enteric fever were comparatively low. The case rate for diphtheria was approximately one quarter of the rate for England and Wales.

In the matter of housing, the attention of my Department has been directed chiefly towards the carrying out of the overcrowding provisions of the Housing Act, 1935. Survey was duly completed and the results of this have been set out in the body of the Report. As measured by the standard set up by the Act, the amount and degree of overcrowding found were small.

Further progress has been made in the removal of insanitary dwellings and the re-housing of the tenants.

Although an appreciable proportion of a Sanitary Inspector's time has been devoted to extra routine duties of

housing surveys, the general sanitary work of the Borough has been carried on in so far as time and opportunity would permit. In particular the supervision of the food supplies has not been neglected.

I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the consideration and support extended to me by the members of the Committees during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. H. WRIGHT.

Council House,  
Sutton Coldfield.

June, 1937.

## Extracts from the Vital Statistics.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	424	206	218	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population (R.G.) 13.04
	Illegitimate	17	11	6	
Stillbirths	...	18	7	11	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 39.22
Deaths	...	369	164	205	Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population (R.G.) 10.69.

Deaths from puerperal causes :-

		<i>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.</i>
(a) Puerperal sepsis .....	1	2.18
(b) Other puerperal causes	1	2.18
Total	2	4.36

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :-

All infants per 1,000 live births .....	34.01
Legitimate infants per 1,000, legitimate live births ...	30.66
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	117.65
Deaths from measles (all ages) .....	Nil.
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages) .....	1
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....	Nil.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) .....	13,978
Population (estimated R.G.) mid-year 1936 .....	33,830
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1936) .....	10,378
Rateable Value .....	£335,949
Sum represented by a penny rate .....	£1,320

## LOCAL ESTIMATE OF POPULATION OF WARDS AT MID-YEAR, 1936

Trinity .....	4,453
Hill .....	6,380
Boldmere (East) .....	5,639
Boldmere (West) .....	5,927
Wylde Green .....	5,409
Maney .....	5,044
Walmley .....	3,942
Local estimate of population of Borough at mid-year	
1936 .....	36,794



TABLE I.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN SUTTON COLDFIELD, M.B., 1936.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>							<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
ALL CAUSES	....	....	....	....	....	....	164	205
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers,	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	1
2 Measles ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
3 Scarlet fever ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
4 Whooping cough ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	—
5 Diphtheria ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	1
6 Influenza ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	3
7 Encephalitis lethargica....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
8 Cerebro-spinal fever ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	....	....	....	....	....	....	4	7
10 Other tuberculous diseases	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
11 Syphilis ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
12 General paralysis of insane, tabes dorsalis	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	1
13 Cancer, malignant disease	....	....	....	....	....	....	20	36
14 Diabetes ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	4
15 Cerebral haemorrhage,	....	....	....	....	....	....	13	14
16 Heart disease ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	34	52
17 Aneurysm ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	—
18 Other circulatory diseases	....	....	....	....	....	....	14	15
19 Bronchitis ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5	7
20 Pneumonia (all forms) ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9	11
21 Other respiratory diseases	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	3
22 Peptic ulcer ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	4
23 Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
24 Appendicitis ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	3
25 Cirrhosis of liver ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	4
26 Other diseases of liver, etc.	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	—
27 Other digestive diseases	....	....	....	....	....	....	4	1
28 Acute and Chronic Nephritis	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	8
29 Puerperal sepsis ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	1
30 Other puerperal causes....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	1
31 Congenital debility, premature birth, malformation, etc.	....	....	....	....	....	....	6	3
32 Senility ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	3
33 Suicide ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5	—
34 Other violence ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	8	4
35 Other defined diseases ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	23	18
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)—								
Smallpox ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
Poliomyelitis ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
Polioencephalitis ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Total	....	....	....	....	....	12	3
	Legitimate	....	....	....	....	....	10	3
	Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	....	2	—
STILLBIRTHS	Total	....	....	....	....	....	7	11
	Legitimate	....	....	....	....	....	6	11
	Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	....	1	—

MALES.

FEMALES.

DISEASE.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and under 75.	75 and upwards.	All ages.
Typhoid Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Influenza ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	3
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	1	—	7
General paralysis of the insane...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cancer, malignant disease ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	9	12	9	36
Diabetes...	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	3	1	4
Cerebral haemorrhage ...	—	—	—	—	2	2	6	3	6	14
Heart disease ...	—	—	—	—	2	2	10	18	22	52
Aneurysm ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	—	—	—
Other circulatory diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	8	6	15
Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	7
Pneumonia ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	4	11
Other respiratory diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3
Peptic ulcer ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	4
Appendicitis ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	3
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	4
Other diseases of liver ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
Other digestive diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Nephritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	8
Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other Puerperal causes....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital debility, premature birth, etc. ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Senility ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Suicide ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Other violence ...	2	—	1	1	—	2	2	1	2	4
Other defined diseases ...	—	—	—	2	3	3	7	5	6	18
	12	—	1	4	3	17	42	61	69	205
	164	1	1	4	3	17	42	61	69	205

TABLE III.

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,  
AND MATERNAL DEATH-RATES IN THE YEAR 1936.  
PROVISIONAL FIGURES ENGLAND AND WALES.

(Registrar General)

(Inserted for comparative purposes).

	England and Wales	122 County Boro's and Great Towns including London.	143 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Adminis- trative County.
RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION.				
BIRTHS :-				
Live .....	14.8	14.9	15.0	13.6
Still .....	0.61	0.67	0.64	0.53
DEATHS :-				
All Causes .....	12.1	12.3	11.5	12.5
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers .....	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Smallpox .....	—	—	—	—
Measles .....	0.07	0.09	0.04	0.14
Scarlet fever .....	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough .....	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.06
Diphtheria .....	0.07	0.08	0.05	0.05
Influenza .....	0.14	0.14	0.15	0.14
Violence .....	0.52	0.45	0.39	0.52
RATES PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.				
Deaths under 1 year of age	59	63	55	66
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age .....	5.9	8.2	3.4	14.4
MATERNAL MORTALITY :-				
Puerperal Sepsis .....	1.40	Not available.		
Others .....	2.41			
Total .....	3.81			
RATES PER 1,000 TOTAL BIRTHS ( <i>i.e.</i> Live and Still).				
MATERNAL MORTALITY :-				
Puerperal Sepsis .....	1.34	Not available		
Others .....	2.31			
Total .....	3.65			



MORTALITY BY AGE AND SEX. TABLE IV.

		<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	Death rates per 1,000 population (estimated R.G.)
Under 1 year	....	12	3	15	.44
1 and under 2	....	—	2	2	.06
2 and under 5	....	1	3	4	.12
5 and under 15	....	4	3	7	.21
15 and under 25	....	3	1	4	.12
25 and under 45	....	17	19	36	1.06
45 and under 65	....	42	43	85	2.51
65 and under 75	....	48	63	111	3.28
75 and upwards	....	37	68	105	3.10

TABLE V.

## DEATHS IN WARDS DURING EACH QUARTER.

<i>Ward.</i>	<i>1st quarter</i>	<i>2nd quarter.</i>	<i>3rd quarter.</i>	<i>4th quarter.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	Death Rates per 1000 popula- tion (Local Estimates)
Trinity .....	21	11	9	15	56	12.57
Hill .....	17	8	9	13	47	7.37
Boldmere						
East	16	19	16	10	61	10.82
Boldmere						
West	13	10	12	21	56	9.45
Wylde Green	25	18	13	10	66	12.20
Maney .....	15	12	9	9	45	8.92
Walmley ....	8	13	6	11	38	9.64
Total ....	115	91	74	89	369	10.02

TABLE VI.

## VITAL STATISTICS FOR PAST 10 YEARS.

	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936
BIRTH RATE .....	14.48	12.23	10.89	12.31	12.66	12.01	10.02	11.04	13.34	13.04
CRUDE DEATH RATE (R.G.)	11.19	11.19	13.29	10.20	11.01	10.06	9.86	10.25	9.69	10.91
ADJUSTED DEATH RATE (R.G.)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10.05	9.49	10.69
Infant Mortality Rate	51.56	67.56	43.47	53.25	48.00	38.46	28.75	28.25	40.72	34.01

*Population.*

The Registrar-General's estimate of population at the midyear 1936 gives an increase for the Borough of 720 during the previous twelve months, whereas the local estimate accounts for an increase of over 1,500 in the population for the same period. The latter estimate is based on the number of inhabited houses, which is known with fair accuracy. The increase in population since the Census of 1931, based on the increase in the number of occupied houses in that period is estimated at 6,800. The Registrar-General's estimate on the other hand gives an increase of 3,906 only.

It is of interest to note that the total increase in the number of inhabited houses during the intercensal period 1921-1931 was approximately the same as the increase for the period 1931-1936, and that the 1921-1931 intercensal increase in the population was 6,896, a figure which closely corresponds to the local estimate of increase for the period 1931-1936. The influence of a probable lowering of the density per house consequent on more houses becoming available has been considered, and, I think adequate allowance has been made for this in the present estimate.

*Births.*

The total number of births registered in 1936 was 459, eighteen of which were stillbirths. The live birth-rate was .31 per 1,000 population below that of 1935.

The ratio of illegitimate to legitimate births shows a decline for the present year and is well below the average for a period of years.

The birth-rate for the Borough was lower than the birth-rate for England and Wales by 1.76 per 1,000, and for other Small Towns by 1.96 per 1,000.

## *Deaths.*

There has been little variation in the death-rates for the past five years but the rate for 1936 was the highest recorded since 1931.

The adjusted rate for the Borough of 10.69 is lower than the rates for England and Wales and for other Small Towns which are supplied by the Registrar-General, namely 12.1 and 11.5 respectively.

A general review of the mortality figures shows an increase in the deaths from certain diseases particularly heart diseases, cerebral haemorrhage and "other defined diseases."

The death-rate for cancer was 1.66 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The figures show a marked preponderance in the mortality amongst females over males for the year. This is accounted for by a higher rate for the generative organs, lungs, stomach and colon.

The number of deaths registered as due to heart disease was eighty-six. This is equivalent to a mortality rate of 2.54 per 1,000 of the Registrar-General's estimated population. Reference to Table II., will show that the greatest number of deaths from this disease in both sexes was registered in the age groups over 75.

The mortality rate for violence was .50 per 1,000 as compared with .52 for England and Wales and .39 for other Smaller Towns.

There were five cases of suicide, all in the male sex, as compared with seven during 1935. Three of the suicides were by drowning, two by coal gas poisoning, and one by train injuries.

"Other violence" of which there were twelve cases, included "motor accident" 3; cycle accident 1; drowning 1; asphyxia by bed clothes 1; scalds and burns 3; falls 2; inattention at birth 1. The victims of the motor accidents were pedestrians.

Reference to Table V, will show that the highest death rate was recorded in the first quarter of the year and that in the third quarter the rate was at its lowest.

DEATHS DUE TO CANCER BY AGE, SEX AND SITE. TABLE VII.

Organs affected.	MALES.						FEMALES.							
	AGE PERIODS.						AGE PERIODS.							
	35	45	55	65	75 and upwards	All Ages.	10	15	35	45	55	65	75 and upwards	All Ages.
Brain	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Liver	—	—	3	2	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
Oesophagus	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Stomach	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	3	1	6
Small Intestine	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colon	—	—	2	1	—	3	—	1	1	—	1	3	2	8
Rectum	—	—	1	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mediastinum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lungs	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	3
Uterus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	4
Ovary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Vulva	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Bladder	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prostate	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spine	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
Totals	1	—	8	9	2	20	1	2	3	6	3	12	9	36

Death rate per 1,000 population 1·66



## General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

### *Public Health Officers of the Authority.*

Officers.	Whole or part time.	Diplomas	Offices held, etc.
<i>Medical—</i> Dr. J. H. Wright	Whole time	M.B. D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health 2/5 time. School Medical Officer 2/5 time. Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare Services 1/5 time.
Mr. C. Rudd ....	Part time	F.R.C.S.	Ophthalmic Surgeon. One session monthly.
Dr. R. J. Cyriax	Part time	D.P.H.	Tuberculosis Officer. One session monthly.
Professor Beckwith Whitehouse	Part time	F.R.C.S.	Consultant Gynaecologist.
<i>Dental—</i> Mr. E. Bampton	Part time	L.D.S.	Dental Surgeon. Three sessions weekly.
<i>Sanitary—</i> Mr. W. Burton	Whole time		Senior Sanitary Inspector.
† Mr. C. E. Impett	Whole time	A.R.S.I.	Sanitary Inspector.
<i>Nursing—</i> Miss D. G. Taylor	Whole time	C.M.B.	School Nurse.
Miss H. Graham	Whole time	S.R.N. C.M.B.	Midwife.
Miss E. M. Grubb	Whole time	S.R.N.	Senior Health Visitor
* Miss V. Ramsey	Whole time	S.R.N. C.M.B.	Health Visitor.
<i>Clerical—</i> Miss E. E. Moxham	Part time		Clerk
Mr. G. F. J. Hopkins	Whole time		"
Mr. P. J. Harvey	Whole time		"

† Meat and Food Inspectors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

\* Health Visitors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

### *Laboratory Facilities.*

Arrangements for laboratory examinations have been fully set out in my Reports for 1935 and other years. The work carried out during the year under review included investigations in regard to infectious diseases and suspected food poisoning, bacteriological examination of water and milk, and chemical analysis of water.

Details of the laboratory examinations will be found under the various headings to which they relate.

### *Ambulance Facilities.*

The ambulance services for the Borough are satisfactory. Two ambulances are now provided by the Local Authority for general use in cases of accident and non-infectious disease, and the conveyance of infectious cases is arranged for at Little Bromwich Hospital.

### *Nursing in the Home.*

The provision made by the Council for home nursing includes the nursing of those abnormal cases of maternal morbidity which cannot be moved to hospital, and the employment of one salaried midwife.

The general district nursing is provided for by the Hill and Four Oaks District Nursing Association and the Cottage Hospital Authority.

### *Clinics and Treatment Centres.*

There are no changes to record under this heading. There are two maternity and child welfare centres, one at Minworth and one in Holland Street, and one school medical centre in Holland Street. Ante-natal and child welfare clinics are held at the maternity and child welfare centres, and at the school medical centre special inspections, ophthalmic, dental and minor ailments clinics are held. The Minworth maternity and child welfare centre is also used for school medical work by arrangement between the Committees.

An Assistant Tuberculosis Officer of the Warwickshire and Coventry Joint Committee holds a tuberculosis inspection clinic at the Holland Street centre, usually once a month. Diphtheria immunization is also carried out at the latter centre and at Minworth.

The building used as a maternity and child welfare centre in Holland Street was adapted for the work in 1920. It was originally designed as a public hall and in consequence one large room was available. It has served its purpose more or less satisfactorily for the past seventeen years, but in view of the rapid growth of the Borough and of the expansion of the maternity and child welfare services since the present centre was occupied it can no longer be regarded as affording adequate or suitable accommodation for the work.

### *Hospitals.*

No alterations have been made in arrangements for hospital treatment, details of which have been set out in my Report for 1933 pages 10 and 11.

The extent to which hospital provision has been utilised during the year under review is dealt with under the relevant sections of the Report.

The cost of hospital isolation and treatment of infectious diseases is set out in the following statement kindly supplied by the Borough Treasurer (Mr. P. Cannon) :-

HOSPITAL TREATMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
Year ended 31st December, 1936.

Weekly date.	A. Standing Charge.	Weeks	B. Mainten- ance of Patients.	C. Ambulance Hire.	D. Disinfec- tion of Bedding.	E. Total.
d. 1936.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
/3 March Quarter	58 15 0	806/7	316 7 1	3 4 0	14 4 0	392 10 1
/11 June „	58 15 0	56	226 11 4	2 4 0	13 15 0	301 5 4
/9 Sept. „	58 15 0	316/7	141 7 4	2 12 0	15 4 0	217 18 4
/10 December „	58 15 0	281/7	116 11 2	1 7 0	16 4 0	192 17 2
	235 0 0	1966/7	800 16 11	9 7 0	59 7 0	1104 10 11

Average weekly cost: B. only.... £4 : 1 : 4.  
A., B. and C. .... £5 : 6 : 2.  
E. .... £5 : 12 : 3.

The total maintenance charges per case for the year under review were higher than for each of the previous two years. Two factors have contributed to this, namely a longer stay in hospital per case and a higher average weekly charge. During 1936 the average stay in hospital per case was 6.4 weeks as compared with 5.8 weeks in 1935 and 4.7 weeks in 1934, and the average weekly charge for maintenance amounted to £4 : 1 : 4 in 1936 as compared with £3 : 11 : 2 in 1935 and £3 : 2 : 3 in 1934.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

*Midwifery Services.*

Twenty-one midwives notified the Supervising Authority of their intention to practise in the Borough during the year. One midwife was employed by the Local Authority and one by a Nursing Association.

The midwife employed by the Local Authority attended ninety-four confinements during the year, fifty-four of which she attended with doctors and forty alone.

The fees collected in respect of the services of the midwife amounted to £193 : 3 : 0d, as compared with an average of £203 : 10 : 8d. for the previous three years.

Four hundred and forty-five births were registered as having occurred in the Borough and of these three hundred and fourteen took place in private houses and one hundred and thirty-one in nursing homes.

Under the Notification of Births Act four hundred and seven births were notified by doctors and midwives, which



is equivalent to 88.7 per cent. of the total number of births which occurred in the Borough. Three hundred and two births were notified by midwives and one hundred and five by doctors.

The corrected number of births (live and still) for the year allowing for inward and outward transfers was four hundred and fifty-nine. There were sixty-five inward transfers, namely, thirty-four from the Maternity Hospital, Loveday Street, Birmingham, seven from the Public Assistance Institution, Solihull, and twenty-four from nursing homes, etc. The outward transfers which were in respect of births which occurred in nursing homes in the Borough numbered fifty-one.

The County Council, being the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts, has the duty, under the Midwives Act, 1936, of securing the employment of a sufficient number of midwives for the Borough. As the result of a meeting between representatives of the County Council, the Borough Council and Nursing Associations of the Borough held on December 17th, 1936, the following proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Health by the Supervising Authority in regard to the provision of midwifery service for the Borough. The District to be known as the Sutton Coldfield District would include in addition to the administrative Area of the Borough, the parishes of Middleton, Curdworth and Wishaw, which lie to the south and east of the Borough. For the purpose of attending the estimated number of three hundred and eighteen domiciliary confinements in the District four midwives would be required, for which a grant of £500 would be allocated for the first year of operation of the schedule. It was proposed that three full time midwives should be appointed by the Borough Council and two nurse midwives by the Hill and Four Oaks Nursing Association, the latter to be employed for midwifery for the equivalent time of one whole time midwife.

#### *Home Helps.*

Supply of "home helps" has been continued during the year, a service which has been of great benefit, not only in cases of confinement but also in other emergencies. Thirty "helps" were provided during the year in the following cases, normal pregnancies 26, ante-natal illness 1, post-natal illness 1, other emergencies 2. In two cases the total cost was subscribed by the Local Authority, and in all other cases varying amounts were collected in accordance with the scale.

The total nett cost of this service to the local authority for the year amounted to £47 : 0 : 0.

#### *Institutional Provision for Mothers and Children.*

There are no changes to report under this heading. No convalescent or other homes are provided for mothers and children.



### *Health Visitors.*

A second Health Visitor for maternity and child welfare work was appointed in April, and as a result there has been an increase of some 1,400 domicilliary visits chiefly for the supervision of "toddler" children. There has been no expansion of health visiting in respect of the sequelae of measles and whooping cough. Health visiting for the control of other infectious diseases is carried out by the School Nurse.

### *Infant Life Protection.*

Six persons were receiving children for reward at the end of the year, and the number of children boarded out was six. Twenty-three visits were paid by the Visitors for the purpose of supervision. All the children were found to be boarded under satisfactory conditions and there were no causes for complaint.

### *Orthopaedic and other Treatment.*

Eleven young children were referred to the Orthopaedic Hospital, Birmingham, for treatment for the following defects under the Local Authority's scheme :- knock knees (7), double congenital club foot (1), spastic paraplegia (1), right congenital talipes calcaneo valgus (1) and bow legs (1).

Two cases remained under treatment from the previous year.

In addition to the above the following defects were also treated under the Local Authority's scheme :- dental defects, 14, by the School Dental Surgeon ; diseased tonsils and adenoids, 2, at the Children's Hospital, Birmingham ; defective vision, 1, by the School Ophthalmic Surgeon ; and ophthalmia neonatorum, 4, at the Birmingham Midland Eye Hospital.

### *Nutrition.*

Provision is made by the Council for the distribution of free milk to the undernourished and malnourished amongst pregnant and nursing mothers, young children and children during school age. The total cost incurred for the year in respect of this service was £228 : 11 : 5, £89 : 11 : 5, of which was expended for the benefit of mothers and young children and £139 for providing free milk meals for school children.

This expenditure from public funds could not be more usefully applied for the improvement of the health and wellbeing of these groups amongst the community. By a little temporary help the strain on the physical resources of a mother is relieved, or a child who is suffering from undernourishment and lack of essential food factors in his diet may be saved from disease and deformity by the supply of small quantities of this staple food.

### *Clinics.*

During the year I held sixty-three maternal and child welfare clinics at Holland Street and Minworth, at which the attendances were as follows :-

#### At Holland Street :-

Number of sessions .....	41
Attendances :-	
Children, 1-5 years .....	316
Infants under 1 year ...	220
Ante-natal cases.....	77

#### At Minworth :-

Number of sessions .....	22
Attendances :-	
Children, 1-5 years .....	67
Infants under 1 year .....	57
Ante-natal cases.....	8

The following is a detailed statement of all attendances of mothers and children at the Centres for the year :-

#### At Holland Street :-

Number of Sessions .....	96	
Attendances :		
Mothers .....	3,732	Children, 1-5 years ... 2,783
Average .....	39	Under 1 year 1st attend- ance .....
		172
Ante-natal cases	215	Under 1 year, other attendances .....
		1,668
		<hr/>
		Total .....
		4,623
		<hr/>
		Average ...
		48

#### At Minworth :-

Number of sessions .....	24.	
Attendances :-		
Mothers .....	363	Children 1-5 years ... 308
Average .....	15	Under 1 year, 1st attend- ance .....
		16
Ante-natal cases	8	Under 1 year, other attendances ...
		137
		<hr/>
		Total .....
		461
		<hr/>
		Average ...
		19

The total number of visits paid by the Health Visitors was four thousand nine hundred and sixty-four, details of which are set out below.

In my report for 1935 attention was drawn to the immigration of families into the Borough who required the services of a Health Visitor. This immigration has continued during the year under review at approximately the same rate.

*Visits by Health Visitors.*

First visits to infants .....	391
Re-visits to infants .....	1,053
Visits to children 1-5 years .....	1,800
Special visits to sick children .....	460
Visits to boarded-out children .....	23
Special request visits .....	503
Ante-natal visits .....	172
Visits to cases of ophthalmia .....	16
Visits for enquiries into stillbirths .....	10
Visits for enquiries into puerperal fever .....	2
Visits to old persons .....	12
Unsuccessful visits .....	522
<hr/>	
Total ...	4,964
<hr/>	

MATERNAL AND INFANT MORTALITY, ETC.

*Maternal Mortality.*

There were two deaths registered as attributable to pregnancy and childbirth, one due to sepsis and one due to ante-partum haemorrhage. Both patients were admitted to hospital after the onset of abnormal symptoms. The mortality rates for puerperal sepsis and other puerperal causes were 2.18 per 1,000 total births for each, and the total maternal mortality rate was 4.36. The corresponding rates for England and Wales were 1.34, 2.31 and 3.65.

*Infant Mortality.*

The number of deaths in infants under one year belonging to the Borough was fifteen, twelve males and three females, and the total infant mortality rate was 34.01 per 1,000 population as compared with 59 for England and Wales and 55 for other Smaller Towns.

Table VIII, shows that four, or 26.7 per cent. of the deaths occurred in the first day of life and that ten or 66.7 per cent. of the deaths took place before the fifteenth day. Two of these early deaths were attributable to violence, namely, asphyxia (1), and in-attention at birth (1).



### *Mortality in Early Childhood.*

Six deaths were registered in children between one and five years, and the rate for this age-group was .18 per 1,000 population as compared with .44 per 1,000 for children under one year. Two of the deaths were attributable to pneumonia, one to tuberculosis, one to septic laryngitis, one to congenital heart disease, and one to scalds.

### *Stillbirths.*

Eighteen stillbirths were registered, which gives a stillbirth rate over 1,000 total births of 39.22 as compared with 24.28 for the previous year. The rate per 1,000 population was .53 as compared with .61 for England and Wales and .64 for the Smaller Towns.

INFANT MORTALITY. TABLE VIII.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	1 day and under	1 to 8 days.	8 to 15 days.	15 to 30 days.	1 mth. to 3 mths.	Over 3 months	Total.
Prematurity ....	3	2	—	—	—	—	5
Pneumonia ....	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Acute haemolytic anaemia	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Whooping cough	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Inattention at birth	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Melaena neonatorum	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Haemorrhagic disease of the new born ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Totals ...	4	4	2	—	3	2	15



### *Nursing Homes Registration Act.*

One application was received for registration in respect of a nursing home and was approved. No registrations were cancelled and seven persons were registered at the end of the year, six in respect of nursing homes and one in respect of a maternity home. One nursing home is also used as a maternity home.

Periodical inspections of these establishments are carried out by the senior Health Visitor and by the Medical Officer of Health. Fourteen inspections were made during the year under review and all were found to be conducted satisfactorily.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### *Water.*

During the year the water mains have been extended in the Borough for a distance of 6,717 yards, for the service of new buildings. In addition a 15-inch service main was laid from Hill Hook to Boldmere, a distance of 7,010 yards, to supplement the existing supply.

Particulars of the extensions, which were carried out by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company and the City of Birmingham Water Department are set out below.

Nine samples of the water from the mains were chemically examined during the year and all were found to be satisfactory. One or more samples were taken from each Ward in the Borough.

A sample of well water which had been reported satisfactory on analysis four years ago, was found to be heavily polluted with sewage when examined on the 30th December, 1936. Necessary action is being taken to obtain a proper supply.

### SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WATERWORKS COMPANY. EXTENSION OF MAINS. TABLE IX.

<i>Size</i>	<i>Length Yards.</i>	<i>Locality.</i>
4"	495	The Boulevards.
4"	101	New Holifast Road.
4"	45	Fox Hollies Road.
4"	208	Lindridge Road.
4"	356	Holland House Estate.
4"	310	Grange Lane Estate.
4"	272	Bedford Road.
4"	550	Eachelhurst Road.
4"	53	Orton Avenue.
4"	36	Coles Lane.
4"	668	New Road off Coles Lane.
3"	57	Grange Lane Estate.
3"	50	Beeches Walk.
6"	68	Wylde Green Road.
9"	395	Tamworth Road.
15"	7,010	Hill Hook to Boldmere

Totals.	15"	7,010 yards.
	9"	395 „
	6"	68 „
	4"	3,094 „
	3"	107 „

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM WATER DEPARTMENT.  
EXTENSION OF MAINS.

<i>Size.</i>	<i>Length Yards.</i>	<i>Locality.</i>
4"	157	Chester Road.
4"	445	Sutton Oak Road.
4"	531	George Frederick Road.
4"	273	King's Road.
4"	439	Beggar's Bush Estate.
6"	321	Banner's Gate Road.
		Minworth Area.
4"	134	Cul de sac Water Orton Lane.
4"	148	Orton Avenue, Eachelhurst Road.
4"	600 }	Kingsbury Road, Water Orton.
6"	5 }	
Totals.	6"	326 yards.
	4"	2,727 „

*Drainage and Sewerage.*

The Borough Surveyor (Mr. T. Porter) has kindly supplied me with details of the sewerage extensions during the year. He reports that 3,758 yards of sewer has been laid for the drainage of new houses, details of which are set out below :-

<i>Size.</i>	<i>Length in yards.</i>	<i>Locality.</i>
9"	322	Holland House Estate.
6"	100	Holland House Estate.
9"	650	Sutton Oak Road.
6"	1000	Monmouth Drive.
6"	78	Rectory Road.
6"	78	Lindridge Road.
9"	60	Wylde Green Road.
9"	1200	Eachelhurst Road.
6" and 9"	270	Kings Road.
Total	3,758	

Three hundred and ninety-five connections have been made to the sewer for the drainage of four hundred and thirty-one houses. No connections were made to old houses during the year.

#### *Public Cleansing.*

No alterations have been made in the arrangements for these services.

From 5,619 tons 2 cwts of refuse burnt during the year in the refuse destructor, steam was raised to generate 376, 357 units of electricity, giving an average of 66.9 units per ton of refuse, as compared with 71.25 units in 1935.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

#### *Rivers and Streams.*

No fresh evidence of pollution of streams has been brought to my notice during the year. The contamination by sewage of a stream, to which reference has been made in previous reports, was again investigated and both chemical and bacteriological examinations have shown that pollution was still present. The results of the analysis however, might be taken to indicate that the pollution was of less "recent" origin than on previous examinations.

#### *Swimming Pools.*

Bacteriological examinations of the water from Keeper's Pool and Baths on May 26th, that is before bathing commenced for the year, showed a fairly satisfactory degree of purity, with the exception of a high count of soil bacteria in the bath water. A second analysis of the water taken on the 9th August, from the Baths, after they had been used on that day by approximately 1,500 bathers showed a decided increase in the count at 37°C and of the coliaerogenes group.

#### *Disinfestation.*

During the re-housing of tenants displaced by slum clearance, etc., the possibility of infecting clean houses with cimex or other vermin has been constantly borne in mind, but in no instance has the necessity for disinfestation arisen.

One house was found to be bug infested during the year. The vermin were imported by tenants from another Area and who later removed from the Borough. They were succeeded in the house by careful tenants who, with the help of the Sanitary Authority cleared the house of vermin.

#### *Closet Accommodation.*

Every opportunity is taken to enforce the conversion of



privies and middens into sanitary pans or w.c's, and as a result there are at present only twenty-three privies in the Borough as compared with the highest estimate of approximately one hundred in 1922. These privies and the existing pans are situated throughout parts of the Borough in which sewers and mains water supplies are not available.

In the following table are set out the number of closets of each type on the conservancy system at the end of 1936, and the conversions made during the year.

TABLE X.

No. of Privies in the Borough	No. of Pan Closets in the Borough	No. of Tip Closets in the Borough	No. of Tip Closets converted to W.Cs.	No. of Privies converted to W.Cs.	No. of Privies demolished.	No. of Pan Closets converted to W.Cs.
23	238	2	—	1	2	—

#### STATEMENT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Common Lodging Houses..... Nil.  
Houses let in Lodgings ..... Nil.

#### *Infectious Diseases.*

Cases removed to hospital :-

Diphtheria ..... 8  
Diphtheria carriers ..... 4  
Scarlet fever ..... 17  
Erysipelas ..... 3  
Bedding stoved and destroyed ..... 97  
Houses disinfected ..... 112

#### *Offensive Trades.*

Number on register ..... 1  
Statutory notices served..... Nil.  
Informal notices served ..... Nil.  
Informal notices complied with..... Nil.

#### *Slaughter Houses.*

Number on register ..... 9  
Statutory notices served..... Nil.  
Informal notices served ..... 8  
Informal notices complied with..... 8

#### *Dairies and Milkshops.*

Dairymen (including producers) ..... 232  
Number of wholesale traders ..... 38



Statutory notices served.....	Nil.
Informal notices served .....	48
Informal notices complied with.....	48
Number of retail purveyors .....	194
Statutory notices served.....	Nil.
Informal notices served .....	21
Informal notices complied with.....	21

#### *Cowsheds.*

Registered cowkeepers .....	56
Cowsheds in use .....	118
Cowsheds not in use .....	32
Number of cows kept .....	858
Accommodation for .....	1244
Statutory notices served.....	Nil.
Informal notices served .....	20
Informal notices complied with.....	20

#### *Bakehouses.*

Number on register .....	15
Workshop bakehouses on register .....	6
Workshop bakehouses in use .....	4
Factory bakehouses on register .....	9
Factory bakehouses in use .....	9
Statutory notices served.....	Nil.
Informal notices served .....	13
Informal notices complied with.....	13

#### *Visits.*

Offensive and like trades .....	61
Inspection of wells .....	44
Inspection of cowsheds .....	645
Dairies and milkshops.....	340
Slaughter houses .....	1162
Infectious diseases .....	434
Week-end caravans .....	26
New drainage work .....	60
Cesspools .....	35
On complaint of general nuisance .....	332
Factories and workshops .....	330
Food shops, etc. ....	1134
Rivers and streams .....	18

#### *Schools.*

Elementary .....	50
Private .....	32

## Housing.

Under Public Health or Housing Acts ..... 8332

(This figure includes 3,351 under Overcrowding  
Survey A. and 1,737 under Overcrowding  
Survey B.)

Under Housing Consolidated Regulations ..... 537

## *Summary of defects remedied and Nuisances abated.*

### Dwelling houses :-

Houses cleansed .....	120
Roofs repaired .....	75
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired .....	110
Ranges and grates repaired .....	16
Chimneys repaired .....	31
Windows stairs and doors repaired .....	158
Floors repaired .....	53
Domestic furnaces repaired .....	37
Spouting and down pipes repaired .....	78
New drains laid .....	15
Defective drains repaired .....	42
Burst water pipes repaired.....	18
W.C. tanks repaired .....	53
Brick sinks abolished .....	3
Choked drains cleared .....	115
Choked W.Cs. cleared .....	43
Defective W.C. pan joints repaired .....	36
Defective ventilation pipes repaired .....	11
Defective W.C. pan and trap renewed .....	33
Washhouses and W.Cs. limewashed .....	75
Ashpit walls and roofs repaired.....	36
Glazed sinks provided and fixed .....	3
Sinks and waste pipes repaired .....	23
Ashbins renewed .....	42
Dirty yards and W.Cs. and drains cleansed .....	99
Dirty houses .....	19
Ventilation provided under floor .....	11
Privy pans renewed.....	10
Closet roofs, seats and floors repaired .....	36
W.Cs. provided with additional light and ventilation	17
Walls pointed and repaired .....	135
Roofs, walls and floors of wash-houses repaired.....	60
Yard paving taken up and relaid .....	23
Channels relaid.....	4
Overcrowding abated .....	2
Basements used as dwellings .....	5
Barn used as dwelling .....	1
Dirty bedding destroyed .....	5

Cellars and pantries limewashed .....	15
Wells replaced by mains supply .....	9
Schools :-	
Elementary	
Choked drains cleared.....	3
Interior cleansing.....	3
Broken W.C. pans .....	1
Defective floors .....	2
Defective yard paving .....	2
Dirty conveniences cleansed .....	1
Private.	
Defective W.Cs. repaired .....	5
Defective drains repaired .....	1
Cowsheds :-	
Floors and channels of sheds relaid .....	3
Defective standings, etc. repaired .....	5
Choked drains cleared .....	2
Fold yards filled in .....	2
Cowsheds and dairies limewashed .....	24
Dirty cowsheds cleansed.....	3
Dirty cowsheds limewashed .....	4
Roofs repaired, etc. ....	4
New cowsheds erected .....	3
New dairies erected .....	2
Milk Retailers.	
Dairies limewashed .....	13
Dirty yards cleansed .....	9
Dairy floors and windows repaired .....	4
Dirty utensils cleansed .....	4
Slaughter Houses.	
Limewashed .....	12
Floors and roofs repaired .....	2
Offal removed .....	7
Removal of manure.....	3
Galvanized bins provided .....	5
Bakehouses.	
Limewashed .....	7
New W.C. pans provided .....	1
Choked drains cleared and cleansed .....	2
Closet roofs repaired .....	1
Dirty W.Cs. cleansed .....	1
Workshops.	
Limewashed .....	5
Dirty W.Cs. cleansed .....	5
Defective W.C. pans renewed .....	1
Sinks repaired .....	2
Yards repaired .....	1
Removal of refuse .....	2



## Catering Establishments.

### Conveniences condemned—

Males 2 (Privies). Urinal 1. ....	3
Burst water pipes repaired.....	1
Unsatisfactory conveniences cleansed .....	4
Unsatisfactory premises cleansed .....	1
New conveniences erected :-	
Females 5. Males 2. ....	7

### Others.

Animals improperly kept .....	11
Removal of manure, etc. ....	34
Rat complaints dealt with .....	65
New drains laid to pigstyes and stables .....	10
Overflowing cesspools dealt with .....	22
Privies converted to W.Cs. ....	1

## *Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.*

Four samples of rag flock were submitted for examination during the year, the results of which were satisfactory. Two samples contained four parts of chlorine per 100,000, one sample contained nine parts per 100,000 and one ten parts per 100,000.

## *Shops Act, 1934.*

I am indebted to Mr. Gee, Shops Act Inspector, for the following report :-

“So far as I have visited the shops in the Borough as regards ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences the Act is being complied with.”

“With regard to sanitary conveniences particular attention was given to cleanliness and ventilation, and these were found satisfactory.”

## *Smoke Abatement.*

Observations were kept on three factory chimneys in regard to which complaints had been received. Nuisance was found in each case and informal action was taken.

## SCHOOL HYGIENE.

### *Elementary Schools.*

The sanitary condition of the schools is on the whole satisfactory. Two of the older schools, Boldmere girls' and infants' departments are being replaced, and when this has been completed the average general standard of the school buildings will be considerably higher.

The water supply to all schools is taken from the mains and with the exception of Maney infants', Boldmere infants' and Hill girls' departments is now direct. A storage tank was removed



from Walmley school during the year and when the use of the Boldmere schools has been discontinued, there will be two departments only with indirect supply.

The Sanitary Inspectors have paid fifty visits to the elementary schools during the year. The defects found and remedied are set out on pages 25.

General cleaning and repairs included decorations at Hill schools and Green Lanes and Victoria Road schools, and internal cleansing at other departments.

#### *Private Schools.*

The Sanitary Inspectors paid thirty-two visits to private schools during the year and the defects found and remedied are set out on page 25.

#### METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The total rainfall for the year was 3.6 inches above the average for the past ten years. The greatest total rainfall was recorded in July, as well as the greatest fall in twenty-four hours, which occurred on the 9th of that month. August was the driest month with a total rainfall of .87 inches.

The rainfall in July was the highest recorded since May, 1932, in which month the gauge registered 7.1 inches.

The highest shade temperature of 83°F. was recorded on two dates, namely June 22nd and August 8th. The lowest shade temperature reading was 11°F which was registered on January 19th. The mean for the year was 6°F below the average for the past ten years.

#### HOUSING.

During the year under review four hundred and thirty-one houses were completed, all by private enterprise. The ratio of private houses to Corporation houses completed during the ten year period 1926 - 1935 was approximately ten to one, and the present addition to private construction increases the ratio for the period 1926 - 1936 to approximately thirteen to one.

Consideration of the housing statistics shows that both the number of houses inspected and the number of inspections made during 1936 were lower than in 1935. This is accounted for by the engagement of one Sanitary Inspector for six months of the year in the survey for overcrowding under the Housing Act, 1935.

The percentage of unfit houses found at inspections was approximately the same as in 1935, namely, seventeen as compared with sixteen for the latter year. In 1931 the percentage was over fifty.

TABLE XI.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

TAKEN AT THE PARK LODGE AND COUNCIL HOUSE DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1936, BY THE PARK FORESTER (MR. J. PARKER).

Lat. 52 deg. 33 mi. 22 sec. N. Long : 1 deg. 49 mi. 42 sec. W. Height of Rain Gauge above Sea Level, 370.5 feet.

MONTH.	RAINFALL.			BAROMETER.		THERMOMETERS.							SUN-SHINE.				
	Total depth in inches.	Number of days on which rain fell.	Greatest fall in 24 hours.	Highest corrected readings.		Lowest corrected readings.		In Shade.				Highest readings in Sun.		Lowest readings on grass.	Monthly totals.		
				Ins.	Date.	Ins.	Date.	Highest readings.	Lowest readings.	Mean Temp. in shade.	Dgrs.	Date.				Dgrs.	Date.
January ...	3.13	16	.55	30.360	14th	29.130	21st	54.0	10th	11.0	19th	36.0	76.0	5.0	30th	32	35
February	2.81	14	.65	30.520	7th	29.230	2nd	47.0	1, 18, 20, 21st	14.0	13th	34.5	89.0	8.0	28th	84	40
March .....	1.96	19	.38	30.310	16th	29.350	1st	65.0	27th	24.0	4th	43.0	102.0	18.0	31st	58	20
April .....	2.15	14	.61	30.400	30th	29.650	16th	61.0	25 & 29	26.0	21 & 22	42.0	111.0	18.0	27th	154	30
May .....	1.04	11	.30	30.430	3rd	29.710	30th	75.0	17 & 19	31.0	1 & 2	51.5	120.0	24.0	17th	147	40
June .....	3.28	17	.89	30.200	18, 24, & 25th	29.720	30th	83.0	22nd	30.0	1st	57.5	127.0	25.0	22nd	131	45
July .....	6.22	25	1.26	30.360	30th	29.460	15th	70.0	6, 17, 18	46.0	30th	59.0	125.0	32.0	17th	119	10
August ....	.87	10	.24	30.400	26th	29.050	10th	83.0	8th	41.0	27 & 28	60.5	125.0	32.5	25th	157	40
September	3.22	15	.69	30.400	3rd	29.000	6th	70.0	3rd	34.0	29th	57.5	120.0	27.0	6th	93	45
October ....	1.99	15	.36	30.360	11th	29.570	25th	62.0	16, 19 & 20	28.0	4 & 29	48.0	101.0	22.0	4 & 5th	112	55
November	2.94	19	.60	30.610	21st	28.970	7th	56.0	18th	24.0	21st	41.0	87.0	18.0	7th 1, 5 & 26	40	15
December	2.39	17	.56	30.610	23rd	29.070	14th	55.0	18th	21.0	8th	40.5	70.0	15.0	8th	42	20
Totals .....	32.00	192								Mean for the Year			47.5			1175	35
																Total	



A summary of the defects remedied is set out in the Sanitary Inspector's statement on pages 24-26.

Under the Housing Act, 1930 Section 19, eleven houses were found to be unfit for human habitation and incapable of being reconditioned. Official representations were made in regard to ten of these houses and one was demolished by the owner before representation.

During the year twenty demolition orders were made, and seven dwelling houses were demolished in pursuance of outstanding orders. Five tenants displaced under the Act were re-housed in Corporation houses.

In 1933 it was estimated that 150 houses should be dealt with under the Housing Act, 1930, and since that date the following proceedings had been taken up to the end of 1936 in regard to these houses :-

Houses represented as unfit .....	64
Houses demolished voluntarily by owners (without representation) .....	37
Houses re-conditioned by owners (without representation) .....	11
	—
Total ...	112
Demolition orders made by Local Authority .....	40
Number of houses demolished under demolition orders .....	8
Re-conditioning undertakings accepted .....	4
Re-conditioning undertakings carried out .....	Nil.

Thirty-eight of the estimated one hundred and fifty unfit houses remained to be dealt with, but it should be noted that those already demolished had been in a much worse condition than those remaining, and it is probable that many of the latter will be capable of being re-conditioned.

In my report for 1935, I mentioned the case of three houses in which demolition orders had been rescinded by the Court. These houses have been altered and are now in use as part of a confectioner's shop and café. It is difficult to understand how such user of these old houses can be justified on legal or any other grounds.

*Housing Statistics.*

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts ... ..)	2,257
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	3,244



(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 .....	348
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	537
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	11
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	390
2.	Remedy of defects during the Year without service of formal Notices :- Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	373
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :-	
(a)	Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 ;	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	Nil.
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :-	
(a)	By owners .....	Nil.
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :-	
(a)	By owners .....	1
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil.
(c)	Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :-	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	20
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	7
(c)	Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenements or room having been rendered fit .....	Nil.
4. Housing Act, 1935—Overcrowding :-	
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .....	26
(2) Number of families dwelling therein .....	26
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein .....	adults 160 children under 10 yrs. 30
(b) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year .....	43
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	17
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases .....	adults 74 Children under 10 yrs. 21
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .....	Nil.

As the result of survey under the Housing Act, 1935, forty-three houses were found to be overcrowded. Fifteen of these were Corporation houses, and twenty-eight were privately owned. For the relief of this overcrowding your Committee adopted the suggestion that twenty-nine houses would be required, namely, special houses, 5 ; parlour type or four-bedroomed houses, 19 ; non-parlour type or three-bedroomed houses, 5.

By the end of the year seventeen cases of over-crowding had been abated, seven of the overcrowded families being re-housed in Corporation houses, and eight in privately owned houses. Two of the former were taken from Corporation houses and the remainder from private houses.

In two cases the overcrowding was abated by making other arrangements without re-housing.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

##### *Milk. Non-designated.*

There were fifty-six cowkeepers on the register in the Borough at the end of the year, as compared with fifty-five for each of the preceding two years.

During the year the Inspectors paid 645 visits for the purpose of supervising cowsheds, and the sanitary conditions of these premises were on the whole satisfactory. Informal action only was required in regard to such defects as were found.

HOUSING ACT, 1935. SUMMARY FOR WHOLE OF AREA. TABLE XII.

Number of families containing the number of persons in the first column occupying dwellings with the permitted number shown at the head of this column.

FAMILIES

Number of Persons in Family	Number of persons in the first column occupying dwellings with the permitted number shown at the head of this column.																							Over- crowded (A)	Uncrowd- ed (B)	TOTAL (C)	
	1	1½	2	2½	3	3½	4	4½	5	5½	6	6½	7	7½	8	8½	9	9½	10	10½	11	11½	12				
1	30	1	39	—	—	—	33	—	—	—	62	—	—	—	54	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	228	228	
1½	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6	
2	—	1	1	84	1	—	106	—	—	—	254	—	—	—	334	—	—	52	—	—	2	—	—	1	834	835	
2½	—	2	1	3	16	1	42	—	—	—	138	—	—	—	111	—	—	10	—	—	1	—	—	3	322	325	
3	—	—	—	—	7	—	99	1	1	—	253	—	—	—	303	—	—	38	—	—	2	—	—	—	704	704	
3½	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	—	1	—	74	—	—	—	82	—	—	12	—	—	2	—	—	—	197	197	
4	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	3	27	—	157	—	—	—	197	—	—	47	—	—	4	—	—	4	436	440	
4½	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	9	—	50	—	—	—	47	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	1	120	121	
5	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	12	—	79	—	—	—	101	—	—	21	—	—	2	—	—	3	215	218	
5½	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	20	—	—	—	39	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	63	65	
6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	11	5	4	13	50	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	5	98	103	
6½	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	3	—	1	16	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	5	24	29	
7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	4	1	4	17	—	—	6	—	—	1	—	—	7	29	36	
7½	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	6	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	10	12	
8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	2	1	4	3	2	—	1	—	—	4	13	17	
8½	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	3	5	8	
9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	4	5	
9½	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
10½	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	
11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
11½	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
(A) Uncrowded	—	30	3	127	24	1	307	6	50	—	1100	8	5	21	1360	2	7	234	5	—	18	—	—	—	—	3308	3308
(B) Overcrowded	—	3	1	—	7	—	—	2	8	3	9	5	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	43	—	—	43
(C) TOTAL	—	33	4	127	31	1	307	8	58	3	1109	13	7	24	1330	2	7	234	5	—	18	—	—	—	43	3308	3351

NOTE.—The figures to the left of the diagonal line show the overcrowded families and those on the right the families which are not overcrowded.



During the year sixty-six samples of non-designated milk were submitted for routine bacteriological count, and of these twenty were found to fall short of a reasonable standard of cleanliness. In seventeen samples a high B.coli content was found, and in one sample a high total count, and in two samples both a high total count and a high B.coli content were found.

Of the sixty-six samples examined forty-one were taken from milk produced in the Borough and of these twenty-one per cent. were found to be unsatisfactory. The remaining twenty-five samples were taken from milk produced outside the Borough, and of these forty-four per cent. were found to be unsatisfactory.

In addition to the above routine sampling two special investigations were made, one as the result of a small outbreak of adenitis in children who had consumed the milk from one dairy, and the other into the cause of "ropiness" in milk which had occurred at a dairy in the Borough.

In December, 1935, a few cases of adenitis were reported to have occurred over a small area and on investigation it was found that all the houses affected were supplied by the same milk vendor. Briefly summarised, Dr. Shrewsbury's reports on the milk were as follows :-

"Centrifugalised Milk : No pus or blood cells and no bacilli of the coli aerogenes group were found, but beta-haemolytic streptococci conforming to human type were found in large number. Findings suggested that milk was being contaminated by a human carrier."

Throat swabs from five persons who were engaged in the working of the milk were examined :

"A.F. A very heavy growth of beta-haemolytic streptococci, culturally identical with the one cultivated from the milk."

"V.F. A very heavy, practically pure growth of a beta-haemolytic streptococcus, very similar in its cultural character to the streptococcus cultivated from the milk."

"W.S. Moderate growth of beta-haemolytic streptococcus, culturally dissimilar from the milk streptococcus."

"F.T. and R.T. Cultures are negative for beta-haemolytic streptococci."

Findings suggest that A.F. and V.F. who were engaged in cleaning of utensils, milking and 'on the round' were the source of infection. W.S., F.T. and R.T. casually helped with the milking.

A.F. and V.F. were placed in quarantine in so far as the milk was concerned, A.F. being sent to Little Bromwich Hospital for treatment.

A sample of the milk was found to be free from haemolytic streptococci on January 15th, 1936.

The second investigation concerned milk produced outside the Borough and sold wholesale to a retailer in the Borough. This milk had become unusable owing to "ropiness."

Dr. Shrewsbury reported that he had isolated a bacillus which produced ropiness of the cream layer in fresh sterile milk. In his view it was a member of the mucosus capsulatus group. Thorough sterilization of the utensils, etc. speedily got rid of the infection.

Eighteen samples of non-designated milk were examined for tubercle bacilli, twelve of which were submitted by the Health Department and six by the County Inspector. Two of the samples submitted by this Department, both of which were taken from milk produced in the Borough were found to contain living tubercle bacilli. The facts were reported to the County Medical Officer of Health who took the necessary steps to discover the source of infection in the herds.

In one herd three cows were slaughtered and on post mortem examination "advanced tuberculosis" was found. A subsequent report on the milk was satisfactory.

In the second herd two cows were slaughtered on the grounds that they were giving tuberculous milk.

One of the samples submitted by the County Inspector was reported as positive. The infection in this case, the County Medical Officer of Health reports, was traced to a cow which was removed from the herd owing to "drying off." The cow subsequently "went wrong" and was disposed of to the knackers. After her removal all further samples were reported as negative for tubercle bacilli.

#### *Milk. Designated.*

Twelve of the milk producers registered in the Borough were licensed for the production of grade A milk at the end of the year.

Designated milk was distributed in the Borough by thirty dairymen, twenty-three under supplementary licences granted by the Local Authority for the following grades :- certified (4), grade A.TT (4), grade A pasteurised (1), grade A (13), and pasteurised (14), and seven under producers licences for the sale of grade A milk.

Fifty-three samples of designated milk were examined bacteriologically, namely, pasteurised 40, grade A 12, and certified 1. The majority of the pasteurised samples were taken from the elementary schools where this milk is in general use. Eleven samples were found to be unsatisfactory, namely grade A, 1, as to count, and pasteurised, 10, as to B. Coli content.

Four samples of pasteurised milk were submitted to the phosphatase test and all gave a reaction indicating proper pasteurisation.

Six samples of grade A milk were examined for tubercle bacilli and all were reported as negative.

*Meat.*

There are nine slaughter houses in the Borough, seven registered and two licensed. These premises are maintained and conducted in a satisfactory manner. Eight informal notices for minor defects were immediately complied with.

The Inspectors paid 1,162 visits to slaughter houses and the following carcasses were inspected during the year :-

Beasts	...	...	...	580
Pigs	...	...	...	438
Calves	...	...	...	103
Sheep and lambs	...	...	...	1914
Total				<u>3,035</u>

On inspection the following meat was found to be unfit for food and was voluntarily surrendered and destroyed :-

<i>Meat.</i>	<i>Cause of surrender.</i>
16 Beasts (lungs and heart) ...	Tuberculosis.
15 Beasts (heads and tongue) ...	Tuberculosis.
5 Beasts (mesenteric fat) ...	Tuberculosis.
16 Beasts (livers) ...	Flukey.
2 Beasts (livers) ...	Echinococcus.
1 Beast (liver) ...	Abscess.
2 Beasts (livers) ...	Bacterial necrosis.
1 Beast (head and tongue) ...	Actinomycosis.
1 Beast (hind quarter) ...	Extensive bruising.
3 Pigs (entire carcase and offal)	Tuberculosis.
3 Pigs (mesenteric fat)...	Tuberculosis.
1 Pig (lungs) ...	Tuberculosis.
9 Pigs (plucks) ...	Tuberculosis.
7 Pigs (heads and tongues) ...	Tuberculosis.
2 Pigs (livers) ...	Flukey.
6 Pigs (plucks) ...	Pneumonia.
1 Pig (liver) ...	Cirrhosis.
2 Pigs (entire carcase and offal)	Swine erysipelas.
1 Sheep (lungs) ...	Echinococcus.
9 Sheep (livers) ...	Flukey.
11 Sheep (livers) ...	Echinococcus.
1 Calf (entire carcase) ...	Tuberculosis.
Half a pig's head (3 lbs.) in salt	Tuberculosis.



### *Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.*

Seventeen slaughter men were registered under the Act at the end of the year. Necessary supervision has been exercised in the course of routine inspections under the Meat Regulations. The safety gun, only, is used and there are no electrical stunning apparatus in the Borough.

### *Other Foods.*

For the supervision of food in shops other than butchers' shops and bakehouses, 1,134 visits were paid by the Inspectors during the year. The catering establishments and stalls in the Park were also visited periodically, and in certain of the former the sanitary arrangements were found to be unsatisfactory. Action taken is set out in the Sanitary Inspector's statement.

Attention was also given to food hawkers trading in the Borough.

The following food, other than meat was voluntarily surrendered during the year :-

Tomatoes	...	36 lbs.
Bananas	...	6 dozen.
Strawberries	...	42 lbs.
Raspberries	...	10 lbs.
Pineapple	...	5 tins.
Hake	... ..	28 lbs.
Plaice	... ..	1 stone.
Fowls	... ..	2.

### *Bakehouses.*

There were fifteen bakehouses on the register of factories and workshops at the end of the year, nine of which were registered as factories and six as workshops. The Inspectors paid 84 visits during the year and thirteen notices requiring cleansing, etc. were served on occupiers.

In many of these establishments the work is continuous and little time is available for cleaning. Flour mixed with dirt and moisture in the stmosphere forms a coating on all surfaces which it is difficult to remove and, as a result the standard of cleanliness is on occasions below that which might be expected for food production.

### *Adulterations, etc.*

I am indebted to the Chief County Inspector (Mr. J. E. Preston) for the following report on the work carried out in the Borough under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, etc. The Inspector has taken one hundred and twenty-three samples during the year as compared with ninety-one samples in 1935, the increase being chiefly in respect of milk.

All the samples were found to be satisfactory with the exception of five samples of milk which were unsatisfactory, two by reason of added water and three on account of deficiency of fat, and two samples of ice cream.

It will be noted that six samples of milk were submitted for test for tubercle bacilli, and that one of these was found to be positive.

STATEMENT OF THE CHIEF COUNTY INSPECTOR.

Samples taken during the year.

Milk .....	86
Cream .....	6
Ice Cream .....	6
Beef Dripping .....	1
Sausages .....	1
Fish paste .....	2
Cocoa .....	1
Jam .....	1
Boiled sweets .....	2
Yeast extract .....	1
Soda mints .....	1
Bismuth Tablets .....	1
Brandy .....	2
Whiskey .....	4
Vinegar .....	1
Prescription .....	1
Powdered Borax .....	1
Seidlitz powders .....	1
Cascara Segrada Tablets.....	1
Syrup of Rhubarb .....	1
Essence of Peppermint .....	1
Raspberry Vinegar and Olive Oil .....	1

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All these samples proved to be satisfactory except the following :-

- A. 96. Milk.—adulterated with 6.6 per cent. of water (official).
- P.217. Milk—adulterated with 8.6 per cent. of water (official).

Sample A.96, was taken from a retailer, and P.217, two days later, from the farmer who supplied him. Proceedings were taken against both the retailer and the farmer. The case against the retailer, who was able to prove a warranty was dismissed. The farmer was fined £2, and ordered to pay £6 : 6 : od. special costs.

- A.106. Milk—deficient of 13 per cent. of fat. (official).  
P.219. Milk—deficient of 6 per cent. of fat. (official).  
P.247. Milk—deficient of 10 per cent. of fat. (official).

The deficiencies in these three cases may have been caused by careless handling of the milk, either by not mixing or plunging, or the "stripping" not having been put into the same churn as the "foremilk." The vendors have been cautioned, and are being kept under observation.

Two samples of ice cream proved to be unsatisfactory. The vendors were cautioned, and further samples will be taken. Six samples of milk were tested for tubercle bacilli, one of which proved to be positive. The producer was reported to the County Medical Officer of Health.

J. E. PRESTON,  
*Chief Official Sampler.*

### **Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.**

There have been no extensive outbreaks of infectious disease during the year. The total number of cases for the year has exceeded the number for 1935 by nine, the increase being accounted for chiefly by an increase in the number of cases of erysipelas, ophthalmia neonatorum, and tuberculosis.

#### *Scarlet fever.*

Forty-six notifications of this disease were received during the year and in two cases the diagnosis was revised from diphtheria to scarlet fever after admission to hospital.

In continuance of the policy adopted in recent years every case of scarlet fever which it is possible to isolate has been kept at home, and during the year under review sixty-five per cent. of the cases were so dealt with.

It is particularly noteworthy that no "return" or secondary cases have occurred where patients have been treated at home, and moreover there has been a remarkable freedom from sequelae and complications in these patients. In two instances on the other hand in which hospital treatment was carried out "return" cases occurred in the homes. In one instance the patient had been in hospital for four weeks and in the other for three weeks.

It is doubtful if hospital isolation and treatment of the great majority of scarlet fever cases present any advantages. For the most part the cases are so mild that little treatment is required, and the spread of the disease apparently can be easily controlled, even in the homes which are more or less crowded.



As regards the epidemicity of the disease Boldmere East and Walmley Wards were most affected, and the disease was fairly equally distributed throughout the year. There were no local outbreaks and with the exception of the "return" cases mentioned above none of the cases could be traced to any definite source.

Approximately two-thirds of the cases occurred in the age groups 5 - 20 years, but of the total cases one quarter only occurred amongst elementary school children.

The case rate per 1,000 population was 1.42 as compared with 2.53 for England and Wales and 2.48 for the smaller towns. The mortality was nil.

### *Diphtheria.*

Thirteen notifications were received during the year. In five cases however, the diagnosis was revised, in one to laryngitis, in two to tonsillitis and in two to scarlet fever. Of the total cases notified twelve were removed to hospital and one was treated at home.

Half of the cases occurred in the first quarter of the year, and all except two were notified from Walmley Ward. Two cases occurred in children below school age, and two amongst elementary school children. Four cases occurred in the age groups 15—45 years.

Anti-diphtheria immunization has been continued, and during the year the immunization of one hundred and fifty-two children was completed. In addition, material was supplied to private practitioners for the immunization of twenty-eight children.

With the exception of nine children under school age and a few older children, those immunized by the Health Department were elementary school entrants, and the total number of "acceptances" represented approximately forty-one per cent. of the latter.

Formol toxoid and T.A.M. have been used as in previous years but alum precipitated toxoid has been discontinued. Reactions were negligible. In three cases there were local swelling and erythema which gave rise to little discomfort and cleared up rapidly.

Since 1929 the immunization of approximately 1,000 children has been completed, and, with one exception no notification of clinical diphtheria has been received, nor has any other case of the disease been traced in any of the children immunized.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1936. Analysis of Deaths. TABLE XIII.

DISEASES.	CASES NOTIFIED.														DEATHS FROM NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.											
	All Ages	un der 1	1 2	2 3	3 4	4 5	5 10 15	10 15 20	15 20 35	20 35 45	35 45 65	45 65 over	Cases Removed to Hospital	All Ages	un der 1	1 2	2 3	3 4	4 5	5 10 15	10 15 20	15 20 35	20 35 45	35 45 65	45 65 over	
Small Pox .....	—		1	1	2	1	12	10	11	6	4		17	1												
Scarlet Fever.. .....	48		1	1		2	1	1	2	1	1		8							1						
Diphtheria .....	8																									
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) .....	3				1		1	1					1	1												
Puerperal Fever .....	1												1	1												
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	—												—	20	3											
Pneumonia.....	39		2	2	3	1	3	2		4	8	7	—													
Erysipelas .....	17	1					1		2	2	2	2	3							1						
Cerebro Spinal Fever .....	1																									
Ophthalmia Neonatorum....	9	9					1	1																		
Polio myelitis .....	2																									
Food Poisoning.....	1								1																	
Tuberculosis:																										
Respiratory .....	12		1						2	2	5	2	—	11		1										
Non-Respiratory.....	10						4		1	4		1	—													
TOTALS .....	151	10	4	3	6	4	23	15	19	20	20	17	10	30	34	3	1	1	1	2			3	1	9	13

One of the cases notified in 1936, a child aged three years had received one injection of alum precipitated toxoid one month previously, and, in view of the fact that this is the first notification of the disease in an inoculated child since the introduction of immunization in the Borough, the history of the case is of interest. After an illness lasting two weeks a throat swab, taken from the child by the doctor was found to be "positive," and on the strength of this the child was sent to hospital. I am indebted to the Medical Superintendent, Little Bromwich (Dr. J. McGarrity) for the following notes on the case :-

" There was some ulceration of the anterior pillar of the fauces and nasal discharge. A positive swab was obtained in the hospital laboratory, but the swabs from the City Laboratory were negative. The Schick test was also negative, but as the child was admitted late perhaps this could not be relied upon.

" Although there was a real element of doubt as regards the diagnosis, I decided to treat the child as a moderate case of diphtheria. She developed no complications and was finally discharged, reasonably fit, on the 24th November, 1936."

At the same time the mother and two other children were reported to be ill, the mother and one child suffering from " sore throat " and one child from symptoms of gastro-enteritis. The child suffering from sore throat was removed to a general hospital where she died, death being certified as due to pneumonia.

The low incidence of the disease amongst the elementary school population, on which I commented in my Report for 1935, has been maintained. The average number of cases notified for the past five years was 2.8 as compared with 13.6 for the five years previous to the commencement of immunization.

The case rate for the Borough was .38 as compared with 1.39 for England and Wales, and 1.26 for the Smaller Towns.

One death was registered from the disease which is equivalent to a mortality rate of .03 per 1,000, population. The death occurred in a boy aged six years who had not been immunized.

For the purpose of diagnosis and investigation of the origin of infection, one hundred and thirteen nose and throat swabs were examined at the University Laboratory. Thirty-five were sent from this Department and seventy-eight by private practitioners. Seven were reported as positive.

Two 8,000 units phials of antitoxin were supplied to private practitioners during the year.

#### *Puerperal Fever.*

One case only of puerperal sepsis was notified during the



year. Confinement took place at home and the patient was attended by a private monthly nurse and a doctor. The Local Authority's Consultant was called in on the onset of abnormal symptoms and, on his advice the woman was removed to hospital where she died a few days after admission.

The case rate for the Borough was 2.18 per 1,000 live and still births and the corresponding rates for England and Wales and for the smaller towns were 3.27 and 2.80 respectively.

#### *Pneumonia.*

With the exception of scarlet fever, pneumonia accounted for a greater number of notifications than any other disease. Cases occurred in all age groups with the exception of the age group 15—20 years. The highest incidence was in the age group 35—45 years. Influenza was mentioned as an associated factor in fourteen cases—all of which were notified in the first quarter of the year.

The case rate per 1,000 population was 1.18 as compared with 1.11 for England and Wales and .96 for the smaller towns. The mortality rate was .59 per 1,000 of the population.

#### *Tuberculosis. Pulmonary.*

Thirteen cases were notified under this heading during 1936 as compared with sixteen cases in 1935. There was an even distribution of the disease throughout the Borough and notifications were received from all Wards with the exception of Hill.

With one exception all the cases occurred in the age group 35—45 years. One case of pulmonary disease was notified in a child of fourteen months who died from a terminal acute meningitis. The notifying practitioner suggested that the disease was probably of human origin.

Forty-three samples of sputum were examined for tubercle bacilli, forty-one with negative and two with positive results.

Eleven deaths were registered as due to this type of the disease which gives a death rate of .33 per 1,000 population.

#### *Tuberculosis—Non-pulmonary.*

Nine notifications were received as compared with two in the previous year. The parts affected were cervical glands (3), abdomen (2), knee (2), spine (1), and intestines (1).

The case rate was .27 per 1,000 population and the mortality rate was nil.

# Analysis of the total cases of, and deaths due to Tuberculosis.

TABLE XIV.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
5	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
15	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	1	2	1	—	1	—	—
35	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	1	1	—	—	1	3	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Totals	6	6	6	4	4	7	—	—

During the year no action has been taken either under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

## Small Pox.

No cases occurred in the Borough during the year and necessity for action under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations has not arisen.

The vaccination statistics, which are set out below show that forty-six per cent. of children born in the Borough were vaccinated during the year ended June 30th, as compared with fifty-one per cent. for the previous year. The conscientious objection certificates on the other hand were lower for the year under review by approximately two per cent. The decrease in the number of children vaccinated is accounted for, chiefly by an increase in "removals to other district."

## VACCINATIONS.

Number of births registered for year ending 30th June, 1936	430
Number of those successfully vaccinated	198
Insusceptible to vaccination	1
Died before vaccination	13
Cases under postponement	10
Removal to other districts out of Area	40
Number of cases not to be found	11
Number of cases remaining unvaccinated at the date of return	4
Number of conscientious objection certificates	153

QUARTERLY NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES. TABLE XV.

Disease.	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Totals.
Scarlet Fever .....	12	8	12	16	48
Diphtheria .....	4	2	1	1	8
Pneumonia .....	24	4	2	9	39
Erysipelas .....	7	4	5	1	17
Enteric Fever (including Para-Typhoid)	—	—	3	—	3
Puerperal Fever .....	—	—	—	1	1
Ophthalmia					
Neonatorum .....	3	3	2	1	9
Polio-myelitis .....	—	—	1	1	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning.....	—	—	—	1	1
Tuberculosis :-					
Respiratory .....	2	4	1	5	12
Non-Respiratory ....	1	3	—	6	10
Totals .....	54	28	27	42	151

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN WARDS. TABLE XVI.

WARD.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Pneumonia.	Erysipelas.	Ophthalmia. Neonatorum.	Enteric Para- Typhoid Fever.	Cerebro Spinal Fever.	Puerperal Fever	Polio-myelitis	Food Poisoning	Tuberculosis Respiratory	Tuberculosis Non-Respiratory	TOTAL
Boldmere East	1	13	4	5	4	1	1	—	—	—	3	1	33
Boldmere West	—	4	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	8
Trinity ....	—	6	5	4	1	1	—	—	1	—	4	—	22
Wylde Green	1	5	6	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	17
Hill ....	—	5	10	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	21
Maney ....	—	4	8	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	20
Walmley ....	6	11	5	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	30
Total ....	8	48	39	17	9	3	1	1	2	1	12	10	151



### *Anterior Polio-myelitis.*

Two cases were notified, one in September and one in October. One patient, a female, aged 18 years, had been resident in London for three months prior to the onset of the disease, and had been ill for some days before returning home. She was treated at home.

In the second case the disease occurred in a girl aged 8 years who attended the High School. No source of infection was discovered.

### *Cerebro-Spinal-Fever.*

One case of this disease was notified in an elementary school child, a female aged 9 years. She was removed to the Children's Hospital, Birmingham, and recovered.

The school was closed as a precautionary measure and twenty-six nose and throat swabs from close "contacts" of the case were examined. Presumptive meningococci were isolated from three of the swabs, but none agglutinated with standard sera and they were included provisionally in type II. The bacteriologist (Dr. Shrewsbury) concluded that these contacts were temporary carriers of one of the uncertain serological strains that may give rise to sporadic cases of the disease. The infecting organism isolated from the notified case was not typed in hospital.

### *Enteric Fever.*

Four notifications under this heading were received during the year, three of typhoid and one of para-typhoid B. Two of the patients were removed to hospital for treatment, one to a nursing home and one received treatment at home. The diagnosis in one case notified as typhoid was revised, owing to "lack of evidence" after removal to hospital.

The case notified as para-typhoid B. and in which the diagnosis was confirmed by serological examination, was an isolated case for which no likely source of infection could be discovered.

The two remaining patients, in both of which the widal test was positive for typhoid probably contracted the disease in the Bournemouth and Poole epidemic. Case 1, A girl aged three years returned from Sandbanks on August 24th with her family, where they had been on holiday since July 18th. A brother aged seven years had been notified on August 10th at Sandbanks as suffering from typhoid and returned home by ambulance with the family on August 24th. The present case was notified on September 8th. Both patients were treated at home and

recovered. Case 2, A girl aged eight years returned to Sutton Coldfield from Sandbanks on August 15th after a stay of three weeks. She became ill on August 22nd and was removed to a private nursing home where she made a good recovery.

The case rate per 1,000 population was .09 as compared with .06 for England and Wales and the Smaller Towns.

One death from enteric, of a resident of the Borough occurred in another area. So far as is known the disease was not contracted in the Borough.

The mortality rate was .03 as compared with .01 for England and Wales and .00 for the Smaller Towns.

*Ophthalmia Neonatorum.*

Nine cases were notified during the year, six of which were treated at the Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital, and three by private practitioners. In six cases the disease was very mild, but in three more severe. Two of the latter were treated as hospital in-patients. All the patients made a complete recovery without any resultant damage.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM. TABLE XVII.

CASES.			Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.	Total blindness.	Deaths.
Notified.	Treated.					
	At Home	In Hospital				
9	3	6	9	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

*Food Poisoning.*

One case was notified during the year. The patient, a woman aged thirty years complained of vomiting two hours after eating steak and kidney pie in a restaurant in Birmingham. The restaurant belonged to a friend of the patient and enquiries there did not disclose the occurrence of any other illness. The facts were communicated to the Medical Officer of Health, Birmingham.

Investigations were also made into the circumstances of two other suspected cases. In one case the place of residence was outside the Borough, but the suspected food, namely turkey was purchased from a tradesman in the Borough. The remains of turkey, together with sausage, stuffing, etc. which were also

consumed at the meal were examined bacteriologically and biologically but the results were entirely negative. It is understood that the same meal had been eaten by three adults, but one male alone was affected. The facts were communicated to the Medical Officer of Health of the Area in which the patient lived.

In the third case investigated, the food apparently implicated was pickled tongue purchased from a delicatessen shop in the Borough. Five adults had eaten some of the tongue and four complained of illness on the following day. Three of the latter were on a visit and the fourth was a resident. None of the tongue could be obtained at the house, but the base was collected from the shop together with the gelatin in which it had been prepared. The examination of these gave negative results.

There were no deaths in any of the outbreaks and on the whole the infection in each case appeared to be of a mild nature.

#### *Undulant Fever.*

No cases of this disease were reported in the Borough, but milk was supplied from this Area to the household of a suspected case resident in Birmingham. The patient had been ailing since going on a cruise six months previously and his blood serum was found to agglutinate *B. abortus*.

On investigation it was found that the whey from a bulk sample of the milk did not agglutinate either *B. melitenis* or *B. abortus*. Further, the Veterinary Surgeon reported that to his knowledge there had not been a case of abortion in the herd in question for many years.

Four agglutination tests were carried out for private practitioners in suspected cases of the disease. All were reported negative.

#### NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Extensive outbreaks of measles and whooping cough and particularly of the former were reported from the infants' departments of the elementary schools during the first half of the year. The outbreak of each disease affected the younger children in the same areas, measles being particularly prevalent in the Hill district and whooping cough in Trinity and Maney Wards.

One death was recorded in a child of one month from whooping cough. The death rate from measles was nil.

Chicken-pox was prevalent throughout the Borough during the first quarter of the year.



Influenza of the catarrhal type was prevalent during the first quarter and there was a rise in the incidence of pneumonia associated with the disease during February and March.

The mortality rate was .18 per 1,000 population as compared with .14 for England and Wales and .15 for the Smaller Towns.

#### PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action has been taken under the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 66.

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(Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.)

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) .....	182	19	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	108	21	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	40	1	—
TOTAL ....	330	41	—

### 

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were institut'd
	Found	remedied	Referred to H.M Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts</i>				
Want of cleanliness.....	28	28	—	—
Want of ventilation .....	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding .....	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors.....	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances .....	8	8	—	—
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient .....	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective .....	10	10	—	—
Not seperate for sexes .....	—	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) .....	—	—	—	—
Other offences .....	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .	46	46	—	—

### 3. OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES, SECTION 108.

NIL.

### 4. REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at end of year.	Number.
Button maker .....	1
Dressmakers .....	4
Workshop bakehouses .....	1
Plumbers .....	8
Joiners and Builders.....	8
Farriers .....	3
Wheelwright .....	1
Millinery .....	4
Boot repairers .....	4
Photographers .....	1
Saddlers .....	1
Motor and cycle repairers .....	14
Tailors.....	3
Stonemasons .....	1
Upholsterers .....	2
Watch repairers.....	1
Radio supply .....	3
Dyers and Cleaners .....	1
Golf Club Makers .....	1
Hand Weaving .....	1
Sign Writing .....	2
Workplaces .....	5
Confectionery.....	4
Total .....	74

### 5. OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :-	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 133, 1901) .....	nil.
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshops Acts (s, 5. 1901) .....	nil.
Notified by H.M. Inspector .....	1
Reports of action taken sent to H.M. Inspector .....	nil.
Others .....	nil.
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) in use at the end of the year ...	1
Total .....	2



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